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ART BLOSSOMS IN LIFE AND QUARANTINE

written by Edillard January 28, 2021



Photos courtesy of Leah Ruth

Junior Leah Ruth, an art education major, sells abstract art on Instagram as a side business. She started selling art during her sophomore year and has also been willing to accept commissions, but her business exploded after one of her Delta Nu (women's social club) sisters, junior Caroline Birdwell, requested a piece during quarantine. Ruth posted the result on her art Instagram account.

"I got order after order," Ruth said. "I sold 12 to 13."

The business has since permeated many parts of her life, including her job as a resident assistant in Shores Hall, when one of the residents on her hall bought a piece in July.

Ruth said she has been making art since she was a kid. She plans to teach elementary kids after college and also intends to continue creating art as long as she can. Ruth said doing so will allow her to make extra money on the side, but will also bring her joy and allow her to continue expanding her abilities.

Ruth's style has greatly expanded, as well as the mediums she uses. She prefers acrylic painting, but also dabbles in watercolor, oil and photography.

For junior Abby Womack, a customer who also lives on Ruth's hall, Ruth's painting brings a calming atmosphere to her dorm.

"It's an outlet that lets me focus on something else," Womack said.

For junior Della Rhodes, Ruth's roommate, having a working artist to live with gives Rhodes motivation in life.

"It's inspiring living with someone like that," Rhodes said.

Rhodes said Ruth's business has also inspired her to sell her own art, looking to Ruth's business strategy for more success.

Ruth said one of the greatest changes since starting her business is how it has expanded both her spiritual life and personality. In terms of personality, she said it has given her a great deal of confidence; both she and her roommate agree. Ruth said the business allowed her style to grow and expand, as well as establish the style as her own. Her networking skills have increased, allowing her to make connections and transactions easier.

Ruth said she predominantly paints at night, allowing her private time to commune with God. Her eyes have been opened to more of the abilities God has given her and to the beauty in everything God created.

CAMPUS BEEKEEPERS KEEP BUSY

written by Rachel Bible January 28, 2021



Graphic by Avery Tillett

The environmental conversations surrounding beekeeping in recent years have been filled with contradicting points of view and opinions. Some say that there are only positive effects of beekeeping, from pollination to diversification of land. While the other side would call this domestication of bees and have concerns about introducing non-native species that could take over a native population.

Even with the simplification of the loaded statements above, there is still the concern for the long-lasting effects beekeeping may have on an environment. Honeybees are not native to North America, which is why many ecologists are concerned about the recent uptick in domesticating bees.

Dr. Ryan Stork is an arthropod ecologist who teaches a class called "Bug Biology" during intersession at Harding. Stork said he agrees that there could be a threat to native species of bees if there were a rise in beekeeping in the area, but he does not think that this is the biggest threat.

"I don't think [beekeeping is] really good for the bees, but it's not their biggest threat at all," Stork said. "There is definitely a way to do it properly."

The biggest threat to bees, according to Stork, is the lack of untouched areas for them to build their nests and to pollinate. The ecologist suggests that if people want to help the bees, they should leave areas as natural as possible. He offered ideas of how to help domesticated or native bees thrive:

"Habitat maintenance: Most native bees are ground-burrowing, so paving less and planting less turf grass would generally open more habitats," Stork said, "Leaving more native areas untouched, even not raking areas, and planting native plant species would be best."

Ecologists and researchers across North America are interested in the long lasting effects of beekeeping. In 2018, NPR released an article written by experts in the field about the possible concerns.

The article, titled "Honeybees Help Farmers, but They Don't Help the Environment," outlines some of the more recent discoveries made by researchers in this area. The main draw from the article was quoted from Marla Spivak, who is a leading researcher of bees.

"We're all on a learning curve, all of us," Spivak said. "It's like honeybees were the portal — the door to much larger issues, conservation issues in general."

Spivak echoes many of the thoughts offered from other experts, but also of a Harding student who has grown up around beekeepers.

Senior Kaley Burks got into this hobby as a young teen when her grandfather found a hive on some of his property.

"I think it's really harmful to domestic bees," Burks said. "If you want the hives to not be domesticated, then you run the risk of them getting infections or dying because there's [no] pure areas of nature nowadays."

Even from the eyes of someone who is newer to the field, it is obvious that keeping bees should not be taken lightly. Researching and understanding the surrounding native areas should be taken seriously.

CLUB WEEK OCCURS DURING SPRING SEMESTER, FIRST TIME IN DECADES

written by Sara McClaran January 28, 2021



Ko Jo Kai inductees wait in a line in front of the American Studies Building on Jan. 27, 2021. | Photo by Audrey Jackson

Club Week occurred this week, Jan. 24-29, being the first Club Week since 1959 to be held in the spring semester.

Club Week typically takes place in October and involves shared meals and inter-club mingling. Instead, clubs had to find new ways to form relationships, even with the COVID-19 guidelines.

Some of the new regulations included limiting numbers for events, shortening the time allowed for club activities and cancelling All Club, a nightly event that typically brings all clubs to the Rhodes-Reeves Field House. These regulations have kept several clubs from honoring long-standing traditions.

“We have always done a service project during the week,” senior Davis Rowan, president of men’s social club Chi Sigma Alpha, said.

Many clubs traditionally do inter-club activities that could not happen this year, but that is not the only thing people missed. Clubs often go off campus, especially on Friday night, which was not allowed this year.

Not every club is the same, however. Men's social club Sub T-16 president senior Ty Mote said that his club's most important traditions were not affected.

"We've made it possible with the guidelines and amended a few things that would allow us to do those long-standing traditions and still take part in things we've done since the beginning of our establishment," Mote said.

He, along with other Sub-T 16 officers and officers from other large clubs — including women's social clubs Zeta Rho, Ju Go Ju, Ko Jo Kai, Pi Theta Phi, and men's social clubs Titans, TNT and Gamma Sigma Phi — got together last semester and submitted a document to the deans in regard to Club Week. One of the topics discussed was how important All Club was. While All Club is one of the things banned this Club Week, the deans in charge have plans to possibly do it later in the spring semester.

"All Club and roll call are probably two of the biggest things that [could not] happen that some might [have been] disappointed about," Dean of Students Zachary Neal said. "And just as soon as we get out from under the restrictions and we're in a safe opportunity related to health precautions, we will help organize that — maybe at a time of year that we've never done before."

Despite the changes that have been made, many still see the good in having Club Week this way.

"The deans have been nothing but helpful this whole time," Rowan said. "I think that it's really amazing that we've been allowed to have it."

"I think there's going to be some chances for intimacy and getting to know each other that were not there before," women's social club Sigma Phi Mu sponsor Mary Fish said. "With bigger groups, it's hard to get to know each other, but this will provide some of that closer atmosphere."

IN-PERSON CHAPEL TO RESUME

written by Bison Staff January 28, 2021



Students talk before chapel on Jan. 16, 2020. | Photo courtesy of Jeff Montgomery

Written by Madison Scott and Morgan Gianferante.

University President David Burks announced on Jan. 26 via a campus-wide email that in-person chapel would resume beginning Monday, Feb. 8.

“Chapel provides an avenue for all of us to mature in our faith and have exposure to challenging ideas and discussions,” Burks said in his email. “While we have maintained a daily virtual chapel, we have longed for the time we would be able to again meet face to face.”

Students will attend in-person chapel in eight smaller sections, four days a week beginning Feb. 8. Sections will be divided by day, time and location: Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, 9 a.m or 9:30 a.m, in the Benson Auditorium or Rhodes Reeves Field House. Chapel will not meet in person on Fridays. Instead, students will watch virtually.

"It's going to be different just because we're all split up into different places, but I think that even just getting to have a taste of that this semester is really exciting," freshman Emma Claire Myhan said.

Instead of having assigned seats for each student, a technology called Spotter will record attendance using Bluetooth on each student's smartphone. Each student has six absences for the semester as attendance is required.

"I'm also a little nervous just because we haven't heard much about [COVID-19] here yet, and I'm nervous about gathering," sophomore Emma Grace Steil said. "But I'm more excited than I am apprehensive."

In order to provide space between chapel sections and proper social distancing, each chapel session will last for 18 minutes. Dr. Andrew Baker, assistant professor of Bible and a member of the chapel committee, said that, just like classroom spaces, seats will be spaced out at least 6 feet apart, in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state guidelines. The seats will also be retaped to designate appropriately spacing, and chapel ushers and door holders will be present to safely direct people.

On Monday, Feb. 1, seniors with 90 credit hours or more at the beginning of the semester will select their chapel section on Pipeline. Tuesday, Feb. 2, juniors with 60 to 89 credit hours at the start of the semester will have the chance to choose among the eight chapel sections. Sophomores with 27 to 59 credit hours at the start of the semester will choose on Wednesday, Feb. 3, and freshmen with 26 credit hours or less at the beginning of the semester will select their chapel section on Thursday, Feb. 4.

"We're going to be talking about spiritual disciplines all semester," Baker said. "If as a community we're practicing those together, then I think we'll see ourselves being more patient as we're trying something that's different."

MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM BEGINS SEASON

written by Guest January 28, 2021



The Harding University Bisons play against the University of Arkansas at Monticello on Jan. 12 in the Rhodes-Rea Field House. | Photo by Audrey Jackson

Harding University men's basketball season for the spring 2021 is on the road to success. Winning their first two games against Ouachita Baptist and Henderson State proved the Bisons are ready for the season.

Leading the Bisons for the 2021 season are head coach Jeff Morgan and assistant coach Ray Lynn Woods. Additionally, seniors Romio Harvey, Tyler Roth and Emir Ahmedic help to guide the team toward success.

"The season is going very well," senior guard Tyler Roth said. "We are off to a great start. We have had a lot of speed bumps, but we've handled them well and it shows on and off the court."

Roth tells of the challenges COVID-19 has brought and he believes his team is strong and can overcome any obstacle. Roth said his years on the team have allowed him to appreciate the opportunities and new perspectives he has gained while playing the game he loves.

"The best thing about being on the team is I gained lifelong brothers," Roth said.

Senior guard Romio Harvey said he is proud to play at Harding University.

“My passion is basketball,” Harvey said. “I always give it my all and represent God on and off the court.”

Harvey said he encourages underclassmen to find their passions and use it to honor God.

“Always give it your all and pursue your goals, and do it all for Christ,” Harvey said.

Freshman guard Stetson Smithson said he is proud of his team and is ready for the rest of his team to be reunited and for the fans to be back in the stands.

“My favorite thing about being on the team is how close we are,” Smithson said.

Upcoming games this month include Arkansas Tech, Southern Arkansas and Henderson State, all of which will be broadcast through HU16 streaming.

NAMING THE KELLAR CENTER

written by Stoth January 28, 2021



Desks line the empty Keller Center after classes on Jan. 26. | Photo by Caroline Palmer

This year, the University began using various buildings with the capacity for larger classrooms, both on and off campus, to adapt to COVID-19 social distance guidelines. One of the more unique spaces is the Keller Center on Race Street. Formerly a Family Dollar, the University bought the property several years ago with exciting plans in mind.

Adding larger spaces for physical classrooms is a challenge faculty and staff have dealt with since students returned in the fall semester of 2020. However, with these challenges, the Harding community has been innovative and efficient with their ideas for educational spaces.

“We had been working out of the Office of Community Connection to create a family resource center, which would be an opportunity for the Harding community to better serve our neighbors, especially in our immediate neighborhood,” Dr. Andrew Baker, director of the Mitchell Center for Leadership and Ministry, said. “Our goal in the office of Community Connections is to allow for the Harding community to be as comfortable to serve across Race Street as

we [are to] serve across the ocean . . . It was named to honor Alice and Wayne Kellar who are longtime Searcy residents . . . when I think of people in the Harding community who really epitomize what it means in Luke chapter 10 to be a better neighbor . . . the Kellars are the epitome of that.”

The original goal for the Kellar Center is somewhat on pause, however, as state regulations for COVID-19 require more classroom space for the University.

When discussing the nature of the Kellar Center project to the student body, concerns for safety arose due to past incidents of harassment outside the building. Because of this, the Department of Public Safety (DPS) monitors the building and patrols the area to ensure students and faculty are safe.

“They are not in tune with how dangerous Searcy can be outside of the Harding bubble,” senior Abigail Konwent said. “I think it’s a good plan, but I think that they really need to work on integrating it safely. If you don’t have a solid plan, the outreach isn’t going to go very well when you go from point A to B.”

Despite the safety concern for the Harding community, the mission of the center is a necessity to pop the Harding bubble and allow students and faculty to better serve the community.

“I think there is a need between the lower income population that live in Searcy and even just the young families in Searcy,” junior Laura Gail Beebe said. “I think it would be a good resource for them and to be able to tie it to Harding. It would be good to bring the community together in those aspects.”

SPRING SING: MAKING HISTORY MEETS YEARS OF TRADITION

written by Guest January 28, 2021



Students practice for Spring Sing on the George S. Benson Auditorium stage on Jan. 12, 2021. | Photo by Carolin Palmer

Social clubs, hosts and hostesses have begun practicing for Spring Sing, following new guidelines than years past, in preparation for the shows on April 15-17.

Spring Sing is a major part of the culture and history at Harding. Spring Sing weekend typically brings students, faculty, prospective students and alumni together. Although the school planned to do its best to make Spring Sing happen in 2021, no one knew what it would look like or what it would take to put it together, after it was originally canceled in spring 2020.

“Spring Sing will relatively look the same from previous years, but instead of having 100 plus people on stage we will be limited to 36 at a time,” men’s social club Gamma Sigma Phi Director Eric Conner said. “Therefore, it will be the same type of magic, just a little bit less people. This year’s Spring Sing show of ‘Twice Upon a Time’ is going to be different — no doubt — but at the end of the day we are going to give it the same amount of entertainment as any other year before.”

Each club has already been working on their show for a year, since Spring Sing 2020 was unable to take place due to COVID-19. This means that directors had the option to continue to hold their positions or step down, allowing a new director to step in.

There was also the option to continue with the same theme from 2020 or choose a new theme.

“We are keeping the same theme from last year,” women’s social club Pi Theta Phi Director Hannah Hackworth said. “The major changes we are currently seeing are happening behind the scenes. The club directors have to be very intentional about who is on stage at what time, how they enter and exit the stage and how we conduct practices to ensure the safety of our cast.”

Hackworth said this year’s show should prove to be successful, as most clubs have been working on it longer than usual.

“Spring Sing 2021 will be the show to watch as the student directors have been creatively reworking their show,” Hackworth said. “I encourage all students to get excited about Spring Sing and to plan on being in attendance for this unique, [historic] show that is now over two years in the making.”

“We are excited to see this project out and finish what we started last year,” men’s social club TNT Director Ben Shearer said. “The plan is to have bigger and better video boards than we’ve seen before, so we plan on utilizing those for better graphics and virtual performers. I love Spring Sing for the community it provides and the way it brings people together regardless of any kind of performance skill. Despite the changes and restrictions added to this year’s show, I’m confident that this experience can be just as special for everyone involved. This show is two years in the making now, so you won’t want to miss it.”

STUDENTS PICK YEAR'S BEST PODCASTS

written by Guest January 28, 2021



Graphic by Isabelle Cutts

In the past couple of years, podcasts have become a common way for people to learn information. Top streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and ABC have even started turning popular podcasts into television series. Podcast topics vary from murder mysteries to daily lifestyle tips and can provide insight into any trend a person may be interested in. At Harding, this trend has not gone unnoticed by students.

“The Minimalists Podcast” by Joshua Fields Millburn and Ryan Nicodemus discusses living a meaningful life with less.

“In this podcast, they focus on minimalism,” sophomore Evan Morgan said. “Minimalism, defined by Joshua Fields Millburn, is ‘a tool we use to get rid of the excess stuff in our lives to make room for the essentials.’”

While many podcasts are created for listener entertainment, they can also inspire personal growth.

“This podcast has helped me find peace and contentment in the things that I truly love — people, not stuff,” Millburn said. “This podcast is amazing for anyone looking to try something new or develop new habits for the new year.” Morgan is not the only Harding student impacted by a podcast. Junior Emma Hayes said she found that her favorite podcasts were those that were educational. Hayes said podcasts

that discuss topics like Christianity and fighting racism keep her informed on how to interact with her peers.

“I listen to a bunch of podcasts about the church, self-care and racism because I want to grow, know and learn,” Hayes said.

Hayes said she enjoys listening to “Love Thy Neighborhood,” a podcast that discusses how the gospel functions alongside relevant topics and people groups, such as the LGBTQ+ community or the homeless community.

“Also, the ‘The Disruptors Podcast’ and ‘Theology Q&A’ with Earon James are podcasts about many Christian ‘hot topics,’” Hayes said. “They bring a lot of famous theologians, and there was even an episode with a woman that is currently in seminary ... [who discussed] the struggle with being a woman in a predominantly male career and institution.”

Hayes said she enjoys learning about perspectives such as this.

“If we don’t let the silenced be heard, we’ll never learn, and we are extremely fortunate to have so much education right at our fingertips,” Hayes said.

Junior Olivia Dunn said she prefers podcasts that tell her about what goes on behind-the-scenes of her favorite shows.

“In the new year, I’ve started ‘The Office Ladies,’ a podcast by Jenna Fischer and Angela Kinsey — Pam and Angela from ‘The Office,’” Dunn said. “They watch the episodes and talk about filming in the episode. I highly recommend this to any Office fan, because it is so fun and interesting to see a deeper layer to the filming process. It’s also not a podcast that you have to pay super close attention to like Crime Junkie. You can listen to it anytime.”

Podcasts in the 21st Century provide listeners with an array of entertainment and thoughtfulness, and all are easily accessible. Finding the perfect podcast can be as easy tapping on Spotify and seeing what is recommended.

THUNDERING HERD ADAPTS AMID SPRING SEMESTER

written by Guest January 28, 2021



Graphic by Avery Tillet

Harding University's athletic band, the Thundering Herd, has been unable to perform for the basketball team this spring season.

Especially in the winter, weather conditions affect rehearsals for the athletic band, however, there are still spaces for the band to practice.

"We are able to play, though we are not able to rehearse and perform as a large ensemble," Eric Colgrove, director of bands and orchestra, said. "We were capable of performing in a large group during the fall semester because [we] rehearsed and performed outside.

Colgrove said they practice inside now because of the weather, and they have done so by creating smaller ensemble groups that practice in larger halls. These ensembles include: two small concert bands, a woodwind and brass ensemble, brass quintet, sax quartet, percussion ensemble and more, according to Colgrove.

“Our rehearsals are shortened to allow time in each hall between rehearsals so that the air can be cleaned,” Colgrove said. “The students are also required to wear appropriate masks and bell covers and sit at least 6 feet apart.”

Colgrove said they have been referring to studies by the University of Colorado with findings and recommendations being released by the College Band Directors National Association and the National Federation of State High School Associations to help inform their COVID-19 mitigation efforts and keep the musicians safe.

Despite not being able to play due to COVID-19 regulations, athletic band students still receive their scholarships.

“No matter what we wind up doing, the music department is honoring all major, minor and participatory scholarships for students as long as they are in the pep band and complete the few ... recording sessions or halftime streamings,” senior Tommy Ghent said.

Continuing with practices every day, the athletic band plans to perform in the fall 2021 semester and has high hopes for the future.

“We still are having the wind ensemble meet this semester, and we will still have concerts (recorded or live-streamed),” athletic band member junior Peyton Todd said. “We might even have some outside performances like we did last semester once it warms up.”

Todd said other, smaller ensembles will also perform during the concerts, like the brass ensemble, brass quintet and woodwind ensemble. Seniors will continue to have their final recitals, which will have a limited audience while also being live-streamed, Todd said.